

**FORT DETRICK  
ALL SERVICES  
RETIREE COUNCIL  
1520 FREEDMAN DRIVE, SUITE 300 (301) 619-3340**

# REPORT TO RETIREES

**NUMBER 1-05 TWENTY-NINTH EDITION SECOND QUARTER 2005**

On 25 April 1995, the Garrison Commander appointed a Fort Detrick All Services Retiree Council. The purpose of the Council is to provide retirees with a means of communicating with the active and reserve military; to analyze and influence decisions, policies, and laws; to take part in programs concerning their well being; and to develop public support of military programs through retirees.

The Council meets on the second Monday of each month at 1900 and we need to hear from the retiree community. Come to our meetings in Bldg. 1520 Community Support Center on Freedman Drive (*beyond the Education and Training Center at the Commissary*. *NOTE: There is no entry through the Education and Training Center.*) or call one of the council members with your ideas, concerns, comments, or questions at (301) 619-3340. A list of the Council members follows:

LTC John P. Hess (USA-Ret)  
Council Chairman (301) 371-6905  
FAX: (301) 619-3597

Mrs. Betty Bennett  
(301) 663-6431

1SG James Brammah (USA)  
(301) 619-6272

CMS Harry Biller (USAF-Ret)  
(304) 725-8560  
boyhwb@aol.com

Mr. Eddie Coleman  
Chairman, Publicity Committee and Garrison Liason  
(301) 619-3381  
FAX: (301) 619-3597  
eddie.coleman@det.amedd.army.mil

SFC Carol A. Garrand (USA-Ret)  
(301) 695-1014

CPT Robert E. Glausier (USMC-Ret)  
(301) 432-5289

SFC Alexander Hardy, Jr. (USA-Ret)  
(301) 668-1391

COL Richard Hauer, Jr. (USA-Ret)  
(301) 663-0844

MSG Scott McKnight (USA-Ret)  
(301) 695-8958

RADM William G. Prescott  
(USPHS-Ret) (301) 829-2064

SFC Margaret Sayer (USA-Ret)  
(301) 846-0741

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: FORT DETRICK  
CELEBRATES ARMED FORCES DAY, MAY 21, 2005**

Published quarterly by the Fort Detrick All Services Retiree Council (301) 619-3340

*Post It!*

**FREQUENTLY CALLED TELEPHONE NUMBERS  
AT FORT DETRICK:**

ALL SERVICES RETIREE COUNCIL OFFICE.....VOICE: (301) 619-3340  
.....FAX: (301) 619-3597  
BARBER SHOP (Part of PX Complex).....(301) 619-2345 x103  
CHAPEL.....(301) 619-7371  
CLEANERS.....(301) 694-3237  
COMMISSARY.....(301) 619-2989  
FITNESS CENTER.....(301) 619-2498  
FORT DETRICK (When calling from outside the local dialing area).....1-800-256-7621  
FORT DETRICK OPERATOR ASSISTANCE.....(301) 619-8000  
GAS STATION..(Part of PX Complex).....(301) 662-7777 x101  
HEALTH CLINIC/TRICARE.....(301) 619-7175  
ID CARDS.....(301) 619-7311  
JUDGE ADVOCATE/ LEGAL ASSISTANCE.....(301) 619-2221  
POST EXCHANGE.....(301) 619-2262  
PROVOST MARSHAL.....(301) 619-7114  
THRIFT SHOP.....(301) 619-2289  
WEB PAGE.....<http://www.detrick.army.mil>

**OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:**

BWI SPACE “A” TRAVEL.....1-877-429-4262  
DEERS.....1-800-538-9552  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS .....1-800-827-1000  
RETIRED PAY (DFAS-CLEVELAND).....VOICE: 1-800-321-1080  
.....FAX: 1-800-469-6559



## **MG MARTINEZ-LOPEZ BIDS FAREWELL**

Upon the completion of my tenure as Commanding General, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, and Fort Detrick, I want to convey my deepest and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Fort Detrick All Services Retiree Council.

Your dedication to the well being of Fort Detrick and its retiree community is admirable; and cannot go unheralded. There is no greater profession then to care for and serve others. I have been truly blessed to have been a part of a Council where the personnel are exceptionally disciplined, highly proficient, quietly professional, and actions always speak louder than words.

You have made magnificent strides in achieving new levels of support and service to our retiree community, hence enhancing their quality of life and well-being. Your participative effort has made a significant positive impact on the Fort Detrick Community of Excellence. The Council is admired throughout the installation for its continued service to country through a can do spirit and compassion for our most precious resources, our active duty service members and our retirees.

I am justifiably proud of each and every one of you as a Council and of your outstanding accomplishments and service to our community and to our Nation. Thank you for always making the extra effort and for keeping the Fort Detrick and retiree communities' needs foremost in your actions.

Thank you for your numerous contributions and a job well done.

Lester Martinez-Lopez  
Major General, U.S. Army



## **COL BALL TO LEAVE IN JUNE**

Dear Council Members:

As my time as the Garrison Commander begins to draw to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Retiree Council for the continual support you have provided to the military and civilian workforce (and their families) here at Fort Detrick. The Retiree Council has been a valuable supporting arm for Fort Detrick that has advanced our efforts in building long-standing relationships with key influencers in county and local governments, local businesses, and other organizations.

Moreover, the Council is an honorable group of Veterans who continue to exemplify their commitment to making their community just a little better than the way in which they found it—putting service before self. Whether it is during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day or when the Council was serving our annual “S.O.S.” breakfast during Armed Forces Day, your professional demeanor and inherent patriotism has always been exhibited during each interaction between Council members and Fort Detrick.

During my tenure, Fort Detrick has come a long way, especially in the post-9/11 world, and I am very proud of the accomplishments and the direction in which the post is moving. Know that you have shared and contributed to these small but significant accomplishments and for that I thank you. With your help Fort Detrick has become more service-oriented toward our retirees, and without your input we would not be where we are today. Furthermore, I ask that you continue to provide the same support that you afforded me to Colonel Mary Deutsch when she assumes command of the Garrison on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Having resources like each of you in the community helps us bridge mutual understanding between our mission and our neighbors in Frederick. Any future commander can use such a valuable resource, and I have been fortunate to have such great support.

All in all, continue to proudly march forward. I look forward to joining your ranks as a proud Veteran and retiree, and hopefully I may be able to become a part of your team and continue to serve alongside of you.

John E. Ball  
Colonel, US Army

## ARMED FORCES DAY

This year's Armed Forces Day celebration will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2005 and will be back on the post. Events will be held at the recreation area adjacent to Nallin Pond. The day's activities will begin with the presentation of the colors by members of Chapter 142 of the Korean War Veterans Association. Immediately following the presentation, members of the Fort Detrick Retiree Council will serve a traditional S.O.S. breakfast. Exhibits and demonstrations will take place throughout the day. A special event will take place at 6 p.m. in the CPT Jennifer Shafer-Odom Fitness Center where the 2005 Soldier Show begins. A fireworks display will begin at dark.

## Future Days to Remember

Armed Forces Day,  
May 21, 2005

Memorial Day  
May 30, 2005

Flag Day  
June 14, 2005

230th Birthday of the US Army  
June 14, 2005

Independence Day  
July 4, 2005

11th Annual Retirees Appreciation Day  
October 5, 2005



## Case Lot Sale

The next case lot sale at the Fort Detrick Commissary will take place on Thursday and Friday, 12 and 13 May 2005. The store will be open from 1000-1900 on Thursday and 1000-1800 on Friday.



## Fort Detrick Farmers' Market Local Farmers

FRUITS  
VEGETABLES  
BAKED GOODS  
CUT FLOWERS  
PLANTS  
June 21 - October 25 2005  
Tuesday - 11:00 - 1:30  
In Front of Building 549,  
(Library/Conference Center/Cafe)

## Thrift Shop

If you haven't visited the Thrift Shop for a while, you've missed many changes. New display cases, new racks for clothing and a new "designer room" where we feature designer ensembles put together by one of our talented volunteers.

The Thrift Shop is a service organization of Fort Detrick and the community. Through generous donations of clothing and household goods, we are able to give items to service members whose budgets just don't seem to stretch far enough. Many of us can easily remember those days.

We have happy consignors because our consigned goods turn over rapidly. It's not unusual for a customer to buy an item as the consignor is placing it on the shelf. Our regular customers know if they see an item they like, they better buy it, because if they hesitate and come back later, it has usually already been sold.

A new service we've started is email notification of sales and shop closings. To be included on that list, just send an email to: [usagts@amedd.army.mil](mailto:usagts@amedd.army.mil). Our web page under Services/Thrift Shop has been updated to include an online contract form. It's available as either a pdf file or as an Excel file. The web page includes the Consignor Handbook, 2005 contract and expiration dates and sales tags.

As the Thrift Shop grows, so does our need for volunteers. Just a few hours on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday would be a tremendous help. In addition to working to support our services to the community, volunteers get first selection of consigned items and a discount on donated items. Major upgrades to our services also are now being discussed, including offering hours the first Saturday of each month.

We invite you to stop by and check us out. We believe you'll be pleasantly surprised at the progress we've made. Also look for us at the Armed Forces Day festivities.

We're open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1000-1500. There is plenty of parking including handicapped accessible parking at the Shop in Building S-11 on Porter Street. Call 301-619-2298 for recorded messages of sales and closings.

When you come in, let us know you read about us in the Retiree Newsletter and there will be a 20% discount off all your Thrift Shop Property (TSP-donated) items.

### **How Can You Help Our Troops?**

Do you have some household items that you don't use or need? Here is your chance to assist our troops by donating those household items to the Household Items Exchange Program (HIEP). This program will try to link up donors with local military families that could utilize these items.

Please contact HEIP at: Army Community Service AER/Financial Readiness Program 301-619-3456/3455 [www.detrick.army.mil](http://www.detrick.army.mil)

This program assists military families that need household items, particularly junior enlisted families, in the process of setting up their household in the Fort Detrick area. The HEIP offers a referral service to ACS clients and the Fort Detrick community, connecting families or individuals in need to other persons willing to donate household items. Lists of items are accepted from all sources, military and civilian, and can be transmitted to ACS staff by phone, fax, electronically, or by regular mail.



### **Blue Star Service Banners**

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front line. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "...The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio has adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the

world to a father and mother - their children.”

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of the flag as well as guidelines indicating when and by whom the Service flag could be flown or the Service Lapel button could be worn. The Department of Defense updated the guidelines on December 1, 1967 with DoD Directive 1348.1, which implemented an Act of Congress authorizing a service flag and a service lapel button (U.S.C. 179-182).

The Blue Star Service Banner typically displayed in windows is an 8.5 by 14-inch white field with a blue star(s) sewn onto a red banner. The size may vary but should be in proportion to the size of the U.S. Flag.

Today Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces including the National Guard and Reserves of all military departments (<https://www-perscom.army.mil/tagd/tioh/FAQ/ServiceFlagFactSheet.htm>). The banner displayed in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uniform on active duty.

If the individual symbolized is killed or dies while serving the star representing that individual will have superimposed on it a gold star of smaller size so that the blue forms a border. On flags displaying multiple stars, including gold stars, when the flags are suspended as against a wall, the gold star(s) will be to the right of, or above the blue star(s) a place of honor nearest the staff.

Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers organizations were established during World War I and remain active today.

Blue Star Service Banners, while widely used across America during World Wars I and II, were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with nearly the same enthusiasm.

### **2005 Retired Military Almanac**

The 2005 Retired Military Almanac is now available. In its 28th year, the almanac is a 256-page guide designed to keep retirees current on many subjects such as recent legislation, including updates to the Concurrent Retirements and Disability Payments (CRDP) Program and improvements to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and the upcoming open enrollment period. Also included are sections on military health care and veterans' benefits information; space available lodging and travel; and many other topics affecting retirees and their families. You can order from the publisher for \$12.45 (includes postage) by sending a check or money order to Uniformed Services Almanac, Inc., PO Box 4144AE, Falls Church, VA 22044, or order by credit card, by calling toll-free, 1-888-8729698, or online at <http://www.militaryalmanac.com> @Army Echoes, Jan-Apr, 2005

### **TRICARE Launches Healthy Choices for Life**

The Department of Defense announced the launch of TRICARE's "Healthy Choices for Life" campaign, a two-year initiative dedicated to building awareness for three key health issues: reducing alcohol abuse, tobacco cessation and weight management. TRICARE is collaborating with the seven Uniformed Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies

to develop effective, innovative prevention programs that meet the diverse needs of the 9.1 million TRICARE beneficiaries. Go to [www.tricare.osd.mil/healthchoices](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/healthchoices) for more information.

### **Dependent Permanent ID Cards - Age 75+**

The 2005 National Defense Authorization Act grants dependants age 75 and older permanent military identification card (ID) status. However, DoD informs us the permanent ID card program will not be available until later this year. In the interim, the defense Enrollment Eligibility System (DEERS) considers these dependents eligible for benefits so long as a death or divorce has not been reported meaning that TRICARE claims should not be rejected due to ineligibility. DEERS strongly encourages those who are able to renew their ID card to do so. Until the permanent ID card change has been incorporated, the issued ID card will be good for 4 years. Once the change is implemented, the issued ID card will say INDEF. To locate the nearest ID Card facility call 1.800.538.9552 or visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>

### **Are you still waiting for word on Medicare open enrollment?**

As we reported in the Sept/Dec Army Echoes, there has been an open enrollment period for Medicare-eligible retirees and spouses who had not enrolled in Medicare Part B. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to be eligible for TRICARE for Life benefits. Medicare-eligible retirees and spouses not enrolled in Medicare Part B should have received letters from both DoD and Social Security notifying you of your automatic enrollment in Medicare Part B during the open season. We have heard of beneficiaries who have

not received the Social Security letter and have not been enrolled in Part B. If you are in this situation, Social Security officials recommend that you take a copy of the letter you received from DoD to your local Social Security office so they can rectify the matter. Social Security officials also suggest visiting your local Social Security office if you made a late Medicare enrollment after TRICARE for Life had been announced (that is, if you enrolled after January 2001) and are still paying the late enrollment surcharge. You should be able to get the surcharge eliminated by demonstrating that you're covered under TRICARE.

The current Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$66.60. The 2005 Medicare monthly premium will be \$78.20.

### **New law makes major changes to Survivor Benefit Plan**

Open enrollment period scheduled to start October 2005

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 05 makes the biggest change to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) since the plan started in 1972. Under the new law, SBP annuitants will no longer have their benefits reduced from 55% to 35% of the base amount at age 62. This change is being phased in over the next three and a half years. NDAA 05 will raise the minimum SBP annuity for survivors age 62 and older to 40% of base amount covered as of Oct. 1, 2005; to 45% of base amount on Apr. 1, 2006; to 50% on Apr. 1, 2007; and to 55% on Apr. 1, 2008.

SBP is a program that let retirees choose to receive reduced retired pay so that their elected beneficiary can receive an annuity after their death. Without SBP, retired pay stops when the retiree dies.

The base amount can range from \$300 a month to full retired pay.

Mailing List: For FREE home delivery of *Report to Retirees*, print this page, complete the forms below and mail to: **DHR, ATTN: MCHD-CSM, 1520 FREEDMAN DRIVE, SUITE 300, FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND 21702-5016**

**PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-**

Auth.Sec.3012, Title 10, United States Code. **PURPOSE OF THIS FORM:** To maintain current mailing address which will be used when mailing newsletters and other notices to military retiree or widow(er).

**LAST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check block, which shows your status

Retiree ☐ Widow(er) ☐ Reserve retiree not yet 60 ☐

From:

DHR

ATTN: MCHD-CSM (Retiree Council)

1520 Freedman Drive, Suite 300

Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5016